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January 25, 2008

Representative Kathy Angerer
Chair, Health Policy Committee
S0989 Anderson House Building
124 North Capitol
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Angerer:

RE: HB 5171 (Meadows), HB 5322 (Clack)

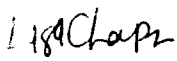
We are writing to request that the House Health Policy Committee hold a hearing on House Bill 5171 and House Bill 5322. As you know, these bills propose to improve access to the humanpapilloma (HPV) vaccine.

Licensed for use in 2006, the HPV vaccine Gardasil (Merck & Co., Inc., Whitehouse Station, NJ, USA) is a quadrivalent vaccine which prevents the transmission of four strains of HPV: HPV 16 and 18 which are linked to 70% of cervical cancers, and HPV 6 and 11 which are responsible for approximately 90% of genital warts. Cervical cancer incidence and death have been greatly reduced with the use of organized cervical cancer screening programs. Despite this success, according to the U.S. Cancer Statistics: 2004 Incidence and Mortality Report, 11,892 women were diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2004 and 3,850 women died from the disease that same year.


As nursing students at Michigan State University, we have chosen the HPV vaccine and public health issues surrounding the vaccine as the topic of our Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Scholarly Project. As part of our BSN project, we are examining issues of access to, and of education about the vaccine and its availability to young women and their families. We intend to establish a framework through which nurses can provide accurate and complete information about the HPV vaccine. Amending state law to require schools to provide information to parents about the HPV vaccine is a major step toward providing young women with the information and the power needed to protect them from contracting a virus which can lead to cervical cancer.

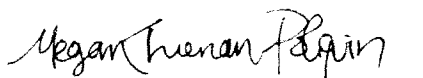
We appreciate your leadership, and the work of the House Health Policy Committee. Scheduling a hearing on HBs 5322 and 5171 will further cement your reputation as an advocate for meaningful healthcare policy which improves the well-being of Michigan girls and women. Thank you for your kind consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,


Lisa Chaps


Rachelle Jarrad


Brennan L. Schwarz


Megan Thiemann-Poliquin

cc: The Honorable Brenda Clack
The Honorable Mark Meadows